



EVERY TUESDAY

CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER

FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE

 December 20,
1947
No 1500

PRICE THREEPENCE

Mystery of the Missing Pennies

ONE IN EVERY FOUR DISAPPEARS

THERE will be plenty of shining new pennies about at Christmas time this year. The Mint is producing one million each week.

Pennies always disappear at Christmas time, so in 1943 special precautions were taken. All pennies were dulled before being put out. This was because it was the first time they had been made since 1940, and it was necessary to conserve all the copper we could in wartime.

IN the last 80 years more than 2000 million pennies have been made, yet 500 million have vanished—one in every four! No one knows where the pennies go to and it is inconceivable that so many should have worn out, or that such a quantity should be hoarded.

As many as 100 million pennies have been minted in a single year, and sometimes there has been a glut of the coins in this country. Yet in 1933 only four pennies were made. Two of them are in the foundations of the London University Building, one is in the Mint, and the fourth is at the British Museum. If we ask a friend to collect pennies minted in 1923, 1924, or

1925 he will never succeed; for there were no pennies minted in those years.

The first copper penny appeared in 1797 and it was a huge, heavy coin. Before that time pennies were made of silver or gold. Some of these old pennies were made of silver and a penny of the reign of King Stephen fetched £29 at an auction before the war. A King Henry III gold penny was estimated to be worth £1400 some years ago.

Many people who are aware of the value of these old coins find it difficult to believe that 1920 pennies are worth £8. And yet it is true—work it out for yourself!

CHIEF BLUE SKY REPAYS

The Gratitude of a Cherokee

CHIEF BLUE SKY is a 70-year-old full-blooded Cherokee Indian chief, living in the wandering, nomadic ways of his people in the State of Indiana in America's mid-west.

Several months ago the old chief found himself stranded for the night in the little town of Goshen. Too proud to explain his plight, Chief Blue Sky was greeted by a Salvation Army officer and persuaded to share food and shelter. He was proudly

inscribed as the 206th guest assisted by the Goshen Salvation chapter this year, and the first Indian. In the morning, as he left, he expressed his everlasting friendship for the palefaced benefactors who had provided hospitality in the best Indian tradition.

Some time later the chief arrived in Goshen to repay the kindness of his friends. He arrived in the midst of the weekly prayer-meeting at the Salvation Army chapel. Before the startled eyes of the congregation he strode majestically down the aisle in full Indian regalia and deposited on the altar a string of fresh-caught fish. Turning to the Adjutant and the worshippers he solemnly declared, "Indian never forget kindness, Indian always repay." Without waiting for an answer he impassively departed into the night.

THE TREE



Christmas trees are scarce, but this lucky little Londoner has managed to find one in Covent Garden Market.

BUSY BEES IN CLOVER

The Wealth They Have Given New Zealand

IT is cheering to learn that New Zealand is sending us some of the hundreds of tons of honey that she has available for export. The bees that made that honey are responsible for much more than that benefit.

Beef, mutton, butter, and cheese that we receive from New Zealand all owe their abundance to the original stocks of honey bees and humble bees that were sent to her from England just over a century ago. Until then New Zealand had never had bees like ours. Now, sheep and cattle cannot thrive without good grass in which is a generous proportion of clover, both red and white.

Immigrants All

There were no native sheep or cattle in the Dominion. Except for the descendants of the pigs left by Captain Cook, New Zealand needed every form of farm animal, but sheep, cattle, and horses could not thrive without grass and clover. Now, clover cannot set its seed without bees to fertilise it, so it was impossible to create permanent pastures of the sort required, for the seed had to be sown each year. Therefore, honey bees were sent from England. They fertilised the white clover, which at once became a perennial crop; but red clover was beyond the honey bees.

So big, burly bees, which are at home with the lushest of clover, were shipped across the world, and did for New Zealand's red clover what the less powerful honey-bees had done for the white clover. With both the clovers established and the future of both species of bees also assured, New Zealand developed into a magnificent grazing country. Not only were the farm animals fed; from them came the assurance, not merely of human food, but of leather and wool and other valuable products.

Bees, too, are almost priceless to owners of oversea orchards, while to the professional bee-keeper the honey is as liquid gold.

The Whistling Dolphins

THOSE dolphins which came up the Thames to gambol in front of the London County Council's domain last month set a conundrum to those who saw them. Did they make a noise, did they applaud, or did they whistle?

Opinions were divided. Some said they made not a sound; others, perhaps nearer, claimed that they heard something like a squeak. The truth is betwixt and between. The dolphins do talk to one another, but only those who, like children, can hear the bats squeak on a summer's evening can hear it.

It is too high-pitched for grandfathers, or, as a rule, for anyone older than 40 years. But the dolphins can hear it and they whistle to one another through their nostrils, like whales blowing.

All this is confirmed by Dr F. C. Fraser, of the Natural History Museum, who relates that when on board a research ship in the ocean he saw a school of dolphins, numbering more than 100, which could be heard as well as seen, till the ship's high-pitched sirens caused them all at once to disappear.

ON WATCH



The lighthouse-keeper at Buchan Ness, Scotland's most easterly light, scans the sea through a telescope which was installed in the lighthouse 127 years ago.

One Flag and Two Fort Williams

THE old Union Jack which has flown, on occasions, at Fort William, Calcutta, ever since the first English fort was built there in 1696, is to be taken to its last home in the town hall of the other Fort William, the one in Inverness-shire, Scotland.

This old Jack has seen more history than, perhaps, any other flag in the world. It first flew, 251 years ago, over a small fort on the banks of the River Hoogli near the tiny village of Kalikata, which was to grow into the second biggest city of the British Empire. Here, under the leadership of the redoubtable Job Charnock, founder of Calcutta, the English merchants of the East India Company established their modest Bengal headquarters and received permission from the proud Nawab to build a fort. The flag flew undisturbed until 1756 when the Nawab of Bengal, Suraj-ud-Dowlah, captured the fort and put 146 English prisoners into the Black Hole, where 123 of them perished in one night.

But someone saved the old flag, and when Clive recaptured Fort William, in the following year, it flew again. It was to fly for almost exactly 190 years

until, not war, but peaceful and friendly negotiation placed another flag, that of independent India, in its place.

Six years before the handful of English merchant adventurers began their fort at Kalikata, another Fort William was established in the Highlands by a famous Scottish soldier. He was General Hugh Mackay, who served William of Orange and who eventually subdued the Highlands. Mackay enlarged an existing fort, built in 1655 by General Monk, and called it Fort William. It was unsuccessfully besieged by the Jacobites in 1715 and 1746.

This fort, a grim monument to strife in the Highlands, was demolished in 1890 to make room for the railway station. The name, however, had long been attached to the small town round it, which, later, was to become famous in connection with the strange story of the Loch Ness Monster!

The good Highland folk of Fort William will be proud to own this relic of the other Fort William, with whose history their own countrymen have been connected, not only as valiant soldiers but as shrewd merchants.

THE CRISIS IN FRANCE

FOR weeks past the people of this and other democratic countries have been watching with dismay the grave happenings in France. Strikes, internal disorders, clashes with the police and military, fights in Parliament have been taking place almost daily. There has even been talk of a civil war between the various factions in the French political life.

What is the cause of these unhappy developments?

There can be little doubt that the background of the French crisis is, above all, economic. France has not been able to recover from her wartime ills. The German occupation drained most of France's economic strength. One of the results of war devastations is that that most important commodity, coal, is still terribly short. France can produce only about 50 million tons a year, which is about a

quarter of our own output; but she needs much more if her industrial production of such goods as locomotives, machines, lorries, textiles, and so on is to rise to satisfy the needs of the people and her export trade. So France must buy coal abroad. She has been getting, it is true, some coal from Poland and the US in recent years, as well as from the Ruhr, but this has been far from enough. We must not forget, too, that she has to pay for the American coal with dollars, of which she is also desperately short.

Who Sent the First Christmas Card?

THE sending of Christmas cards seems to be as popular as ever, and we all owe a debt to the originator of the idea. His identity, however, is a matter of some doubt. But it is believed that the credit for it belongs to Sir Henry Cole, who, just 101 years ago, thought of sending printed Christmas greetings to friends instead of letters.

Sir Henry Cole was an interesting Victorian character, though more or less forgotten—an official keeper of records with a taste for the Arts. Under the name of Felix Summerly he edited a series of children's stories illustrated by famous artists of the day, and also designed a prize-winning tea service. As a prominent member of the Society of Arts he played a great part in promoting the Great Exhibition of 1851 and the museums which grew up on its site.

A man so interested in the decorative arts may well have been the first to think of printed Christmas greetings. Be that as it may, we do know that in 1846 John Calcott Horsley, later a Royal Academician, designed for him a card depicting a charitable distribution to needy people and adorned with vine pattern. Sir Henry Cole had a host of friends, and that Christmas a thousand of them received one of his cards. The novelty of that year has since become a commonplace—but none the less welcome for all that.

HE WORKED FOR PEACE & LEARNING

DR NICHOLAS MURRAY BUTLER, President of Columbia University, New York, from 1901 to 1945, who passed on recently at the age of 85, was a famous worker for World Peace and won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1931.

He was also a great scholar and educationist and made Columbia one of the leading universities of the world. He was connected with the University for over 50 years, joining the staff in 1885 as Instructor in Philosophy. Since those days this great University has grown out of the old Columbia College.

Professor Murray Butler travelled a great deal and he may be said to have begun his work for World Peace in 1907 when he became chairman of the Mohonk Lake Conference for International Arbitration. In 1910 he was made a trustee of the Carnegie Foundation for International Peace.

The Food Shortage

But this is only one side of the picture. France, traditionally a country of good and plentiful food, is short of food as well. She has not enough wheat to feed her people. The peasant who has lost his confidence in the country's money is not willing to part with his produce in exchange for francs which, he fears, may soon lose a good deal of their value. So he has been hoarding supplies, with the result that towns have had to go short of food.

It is the French towns which are in real trouble. Not only is food short, but the existing rationing system is entirely inefficient, so that people have recourse to a vast black market where prices have recently been soaring. The rising prices on both the black and legal markets have caused hardship among all who earn only a fixed wage or salary. With average clerical salaries much below £7 a week it is difficult to buy meat at 15s a pound or potatoes at 7d a pound. It is not surprising, therefore, that a clamour for higher wages has arisen throughout France. But the Government, which has already yielded on this point several times, cannot go much further if it is to avoid the dreaded inflation and with it a very big devaluation of the franc.

Quite rightly, the Government sees the salvation of the country not in increased wages but in greater output of food, consumers' goods, and such things as machines, power stations, and railway wagons. Only thus can more goods come on the market and cause a fall of prices.

Help at Hand

This, of course, will take a long time, but temporary relief may not be far off. The American Congress is anxious to help France, and soon, under the interim plan, there should be large cargoes of American foods unloading at French ports. This relief should also help France to maintain her parliamentary democratic system, of which she is so rightly proud. For during the economic crisis extremist parties have been attempting to create further confusion and seize, if possible, power—with a view to eliminating Parliament and turning France into a totalitarian State. Recent events have shown, however, that democracy is still deep-rooted in Republican France.

Give Peace a Chance

Like a gleam of light among much darkness comes this moving appeal, solemnly addressed by Unesco from Mexico City, "to all concerned with the dignity of man and the future of civilisation."

AWARE of the responsibilities imposed on them by the constitution of Unesco to further the universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedom of peoples throughout the world without distinction of race, sex, language, or religion; concerned at the dangers to peace resulting from current thoughts conducive to the idea that another war is inevitable; and troubled by the indifference, resignation, and even calm acceptance which such currents of thought meet in certain sections of public opinion, Unesco General Conference addresses a solemn appeal to all who are concerned with the dignity of man and the future of civilisation, particularly educationists, scholars, scientists, artists, writers, and journalists throughout the world, and adjures them to denounce the pernicious idea that another war is inevitable, and to act as a mouthpiece of the conscience of the nations refusing collective suicide; and to combat by every means in their power the surrender to fear and to every form of thought or action which may threaten a just and lasting peace.

Violet Elizabeth



Audrey Manning, who plays the part of Violet Elizabeth in the film *Just William's Luck*, showing in London this week.

THIS WAS INDEED A VICTORY

FOR the first time in history a major epidemic has been brought under control in six weeks.

This was accomplished by the United Nations World Health Organisation, which acted promptly when cholera broke out in Egypt last September. Through WHO millions of units of serum were flown in from Europe, America, South Africa, and China, together with expert scientists and special aircraft which sprayed the towns and villages with DDT.

By the middle of last month life in Egypt was returning to normal and the dreaded plague had been stayed. It was a triumph for the United Nations.

WORLD NEWS REEL

FRIENDS IN NEED. The Friends' Relief Service, which has done much work in war-devastated countries, will end its existence about next May. Its long-term projects will be taken over by the Friends' Service Council.

The British Museum of Natural History has acquired a collection of 25,000 Brazilian insects which formerly belonged to the vicar of the English church at Para, on the River Amazon.

A direct air service between Dublin and Rome was opened this month. Constellation aircraft are being used, and the non-stop flight takes about four-and-a-half hours.

FLYING KENNELS. A plane left Stanstead Airport recently with built-in kennels to carry eleven dogs to Johannesburg.

Rich deposits of mica are reported from Central Australia. These are said to compare in extent with the Indian mica belt which is at present the world's principal source of this mineral.

The fourth centenary of the death of Hernando Cortes, the conqueror of Mexico, was commemorated at his birthplace—Medellin, in Estremadura.

SNAKE BITE. An angler fishing from the Cape coast felt a tug on his line—and reeled in a large yellow cobra!

Pupils of Nepean High School, near Ottawa, are sending Christmas food parcels to the boys and girls of Willesden County School, London.

Italy and Yugoslavia have made a five-year trade agreement.

GOOD FARE. Busmen of an Auckland Company have arranged, through Leyland Motors Limited, to send food parcels to busmen of a similar-sized company in Britain.

The British and Dutch Governments are to share the cost of laying and maintaining the new telephone cable between Alderburgh and Domburg.

MORE JAPS. The population of Japan proper on August 1 this year was estimated at 78,220,840, the greatest on record for Japan and 5,851,698 more than in 1945. Of the increased numbers, 4,451,261 were persons repatriated to Japan from her former possessions.

As no water was available, French farmers used thousands of gallons of freshly-pressed cider to put out a fire in a communal hayloft at Nantes.

HOME NEWS REEL

GOOD EFFORT. In the first ten months of this year, the Southern Railway has salvaged 54 tons of waste paper, 13 tons of rope, two-and-a-half tons of bottles, and two tons of straw.

During the three weeks beginning December 22 the Tatler Theatre, Charing Cross Road, London, is to have a programme specially chosen for children. This will be the first time a cinema has had a special season for children.

During the next two years 12 million defence medals and war medals will be produced in Britain.

THEIR OWN WORK. Members of the Whitehall Youth Centre, Retford, have opened a club chapel built and furnished entirely by their own efforts.

Mr W. J. Townsend has retired after serving 63 years as organist of Holy Trinity Church, Coventry.

Last week over 10,000 London schoolchildren took part in a series of Christmas carol recitals at Westminster Central Hall.

Last week the CN mentioned that women students at Cambridge University were still not allowed to take degrees. Now has come the good news that women are to be admitted to full membership of the University on the same terms as men.

PLOUGHWOMAN. In a Hampshire county ploughing competition at Hursley, a member of the Women's Land Army, Miss Mary Hyde, beat 14 men.

Last year the membership of British trade unions reached the record figure of 8,714,000. There was an increase during the year of 901,000.

During October the British motor industry exported over £8,722,000 worth of vehicles, parts, and accessories, which was nearly six times the monthly average of 1938.

TRIBUTE. At the service to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the opening of St Paul's Cathedral, London, a beautifully bound Bible, a gift from an anonymous Australian, was dedicated. It was given as a tribute to Mr Churchill.

The Carnegie Hero Trust award has been given to a German prisoner-of-war, Gottfried Dapert, for saving a farmer from being killed by a bull.

During October, 91 children were killed on the roads. More than half of these were under seven years and 78 were pedestrians. The total number of persons killed during the month was 499. The injured numbered 14,155.

YOUTH NEWS REEL

COURAGE. The Cornwell Scout Badge has been awarded to Scout Donald Gould of the 2nd Salisbury Group for his courage and perseverance under great suffering. He has spent seven years in hospital, with tuberculosis of the right hip, and although his leg has been amputated he has remained a cheerful and efficient Scout.

The 5th Caulfield Scout Troop in Melbourne, Australia, is sending a Christmas food parcel to every one of the 70 Scouts and Cubs of the 21st Ealing Group.

The Singapore Battalion of the Boys' Brigade, revived since the war, has re-formed three of its

Life Boy Teams. Life Boys are the Junior Reserve of the B.B.

SERVICE. Since 1945 five teams of the Guide International Service have been engaged on general relief work in the British Zone of Germany. A sixth team has been asked for and its eight members are about to leave England for Germany.

The Scouts of the 1st Ben Rydding Troop, Yorkshire, have converted a derelict farmhouse on the Yorkshire moors into a comfortable "den" to use as a headquarters base for rambling, pot-holing, and other open-air activities in the surrounding countryside.

A New Era in Atomic Healing

A NEW element has come into being. It is Plutonium, and it has been made by man. Or, rather, it has been made by men, because it is the outcome of seven years' work at the great installation at Hamford, U.S.A. designed to produce it as part of the effort to utilise atomic energy, not for atomic bombs, but for the use of mankind's lawful occasions in the days of peace.

One of the products of which Plutonium is the starting-point is known as Carbon 14, which is expected to be a powerful factor in controlling one of the most threatening, if not the greatest, of human afflictions. Its production is the story of what is done to Uranium, the fount of atomic energy. Uranium is found in two forms, isotopes of one

another; that is to say that they are elements alike in chemical constitutions but differing in physical properties. One of these was converted into another by exposure to intense radiation from the atomic furnace at the headquarters of the U.S.A. Atomic Energy Commission; and this by a second exposure into the first new radio-active isotope Neptunium. This again, after six years' work, was converted by skilful and dangerous methods into Plutonium. And now from Plutonium, the so-called radio-isotope, can be produced Carbon 14 in a few hours, which till now required two years, and the process at a cost of 50 dollars which otherwise would have cost a million dollars; and a new era in atomic medicine now has appeared.

GRATITUDE

Mr D. MOORE, 78, of Felixstowe, Suffolk, whose home was destroyed during an air raid seven years ago, recently received a war damage cheque for £1500. He has sent it on to the R.A.F. Benevolent Fund, with the message that had it not been for the R.A.F. boys we would not be here today.

An Unbeaten Team

MEMBERS of the British women's hockey team are now on their way home from the United States, where they have completed a wonderful tour.

These hockey girls played 18 matches against some of the best of the American school and club teams, with a final game against an "international" team composed of the cream of American hockey players. Every match was won handsomely, with a goal total of 208 against only five. Some of their victories were outstanding, with scores of 24-0, 21-0, 17-0, 16-0, 12-0, 12-2. Mary Dicks, and Mary Russell-Vick, a schoolteacher, were in devastating shooting form and scored nearly half the team's goals.

Women's hockey is a sport at which Britain can usually hold her own in America, for although the hockey women of the two countries have been meeting regularly since 1920, the British team has never yet been beaten!

New Chum



Five-month-old Sally, one of three Malayan bears newly arrived at the London Zoo, takes a walk with her keeper.

Their Need is Greatest

At the recent Unesco Conference at Mexico City the delegates faced the dire needs of many war-devastated countries in rebuilding the life of their youth. Now an illustrated report, *The Book of Needs*, has been published (Stationery Office, 5s) in which Unesco makes a rapid survey of this tragic problem which, says Dr Huxley in a foreword, "cannot be ignored by anyone who cares for the preservation of real values in tomorrow's generation."

The report reveals that in North China food is so scarce that University students have only the crudest corn bread with a little bowl of vegetables and a few beans three times a day. In Greece it is said that there are between 60,000 and 100,000 homeless children, some still wandering about the country even in dead of winter, trying to survive. In Poland a recent medical examination showed that 84 per cent of the elementary school-children had signs of tuberculosis. Several other countries are also surveyed.

These young folks' needs are indeed urgent, so Unesco is making a world-wide call for help, and has started a Reconstruction Fund.

NO CHANGE WANTED

FOR 62 years out of his 77 Mr J. Noble, of Cheadle, Cheshire, has worked for a firm of wholesale newsagents in Manchester. When told that he was due for retirement he made the comment: "I don't like changes. I'd be happier starting all over again."

This Kind World.

OVER two years ago two women porters at Pinner Railway Station noticed an elderly gentleman hobbling slowly and painfully towards the subway. They found that the man was crippled by arthritis and that it took almost 25 minutes for him to go down the steps and through the tunnel to the exit on the other side of the lines. They searched for some means to shorten his route and finally hit upon an idea.

Every weekday evening for two years the old gentleman has been met by a cheery "Good-evening" and is whisked on a luggage barrow across the lines to the other platform, where the friendly porters help him off and then return to their work

THEATRE IN A BYRE

AN interesting stage experiment is taking place in Scotland at the Byre Theatre, St Andrews. This building was once a cowshed but has been transformed into a neat little theatre holding an audience of 70.

To play in this unique theatre a small company of actors and actresses, including such well-known figures as Miss Jean Forbes-Robertson and Mr John Lindsay, have come from London. Accustomed though they are to the large theatres of the West End of London, they have come to the tiny Byre Theatre to play unselfishly "for their keep" for a season, and have just presented the famous play by Ibsen, *Hedda Gabler*, in which Miss Forbes-Robertson takes the leading role, as she did in the London production.

YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE

SOME simple methods of safeguarding Christmas trees against fire are given by the Timber Development Association. A Christmas tree should be fresh when bought. Its trunk, at the bottom, should be cut diagonally at least an inch above the original cuts, and the tree should then be placed at once in a container of water and kept there while in use. This will render the tree less likely to catch fire.

A New Safety Device

A NEW system of automatic train control, recently installed on the L.M.S. London to Southend line enables drivers to hear as well as see signals—and even takes control of the train should the driver himself take no action on hearing a horn sound in his cabin.

The new system consists of two magnetic inductors, set 15 yards apart, in the middle of the track. When a train—whether electric or steam—passes over these magnets, a horn sounds in the driver's cab. If the signal ahead is at warning the horn sounds continuously, so that the driver can apply the brake. But if after the horn has sounded for 20 seconds, he does not apply the brake, the magnetic forces, working through a gadget attached under the engine, automatically and smoothly apply the brakes.

On the other hand, if the signal ahead is in the "All Clear" position, the horn gives a short, reassuring hoot.

The mechanism under the locomotive by means of which the magnets operate both horn and brakes is in a small steel dome, about the size of a bowler hat, which is slung under the engine five inches above the line.

THE ELUSIVE POLE

IN order to trace the movements of the North Magnetic Pole, the Canadian Government is setting up a temporary magnetic observatory at Baker Lake, Keewatin, North-west Territories.

Scientists in this cold and lonely region will make observations from which accurate magnetic charts of the Canadian Arctic can be made to help air navigation. They will also study the effect of sunspots and auroras on the magnetic field in order to find out how radio communication in the Arctic is affected thereby.



A SCHOOL FOR ALL NATIONS

THESE young folk of different nationalities are setting out on a big adventure. They are coming to school on the opening day of the Guest Nursery School at Lake Success, the temporary headquarters of the United Nations. The school is for the children of the United Nations staff and it is housed in a farmhouse built in the Colonial days.

The language problem will be somewhat difficult at first, but we may be sure the friendly spirit of youth will not let that interfere with work—or play.

The Geyser Plays

At the New Zealand thermal town of Rotorua the pre-war practice has been revived of raising a flag above the office of the Tourist Department in the town when the Pohutu geyser at Whakarewarewa is playing.

The Tourist Department has an arrangement with its caretaker at Whakarewarewa for him to telephone the office when the geyser begins to play. A red flag with "Pohutu geyser playing" in white letters on it is then hoisted, and it is lowered when the caretaker advises that the display is over.

One of the many geysers at Rotorua, Pohutu, is the most spectacular, playing sometimes to a height of 70 to 80 feet. Close beside it the Prince of Wales's Feathers, a small but lovely three-sprayed geyser, spouts at the same time.

With increased activity in the last few years coloured terraces are now forming below the geysers. In time these terraces may resemble the famous pink and white terraces which were destroyed by the fatal Tarawera eruption in 1886, though, of course, on a much smaller scale.

HOLIDAY LECTURES

DURING the Christmas holidays there are to be illustrated lectures for boys and girls on The Making of Architecture at the headquarters of the Royal Institute of British Architects. There will be three lectures by Mr Richard Sheppard at 3 p.m. on January 5, 7, and 9 at 66 Portland Place, London, W.1.

Tickets, which are free, may be obtained from the Secretary, R.I.B.A., at the above address.

Stamp News

CEYLON has issued a set of four pictorial stamps to commemorate the inauguration of the new government. They bear views of the Parliament House, of a sacred mountain, the Temple of the Tooth, and of the Buddhist Temple at Anuradhapura.

AN unused copy of the Great Britain Silver Jubilee 2½d Prussian blue was recently sold for £110.

TRANSJORDAN has issued a set of stamps to celebrate the opening of the new parliament.

SAD END OF A SEAL

A SEAL which had sported in the River Yare well up towards Norwich for a couple of months has met its death, probably through taking a baited hook from an angler's pike line.

It is being mounted by a Norwich taxidermist, and will then be placed in the Castle Museum.

Seals are rare visitors to Norfolk rivers, and, as far as is known, the only other seal to have come so far up the Yare did so 300 years ago; a record of it having been shot was made by Sir Thomas Browne.

The Man Who Made Tickets

MR H. W. CROFT, who recently retired from the service of the G.W.R., was an authority on everything to do with the making and printing of tickets, and he completed his 42 years' service with the G.W.R. as Superintendent of their Stationery and Printing Department.

He introduced special printing and cutting machinery by which tickets were produced more cheaply and efficiently. He carried out a ten years' campaign against paper-wasting in the G.W.R., reducing by a third the number and size of forms and books used and thus saving the company tens of thousands of pounds.

Suspended



The cameraman caught this Badminton player apparently suspended in mid-air as he returned a difficult shot.



Lunchtime in the Park

The ducks and swans gather hopefully for crumbs as a party of schoolboys take a strolling lunch in St James's Park, London.

Reptiles in the Scales

BY THE C N ZOO CORRESPONDENT

KEEPERS at the Zoo reptile house, taking advantage of the winter decline in activity, have recently been weighing a few of the exhibits. Mostly this is done purely as a matter of interest. Only in the case of an exhibit of exceptional size is the weight placed on the Zoo records, for reference purposes.

A case in point is that of a huge Common Toad which has just come from Russia. This reptile, one of eight toads received by air from the Moscow Zoo-park, was such an "outsize" fellow that he was promptly asked to "step on the scales." He did so most obligingly, and was found to register nearly one pound. "He is far and away the heaviest of his kind we have ever had," Mr J. W. Lester, the curator, told me.

"Old Bulky" (as the keepers call him), is an unusually amiable creature. When I took him in my hand he did not attempt to jump away. Perhaps his phenomenal "avordupois" had something to do with it! Incidentally, Old Bulky is an amusing chap and enjoys being "hypnotised." Gentle stroking of the head with the finger-tip causes him to close his eyes and seem to fall into a profound sleep. However, he wakes up quickly enough on being confronted with a wriggling mealworm!

Generally, it is easier to weigh a mammal than a reptile. Nor need you wonder why. The agility and speed possessed by some of

the inmates of the reptile house makes the job of weighing them a tricky task. This applies especially to the lizard fraternity. I have seen a lizard put on the scales and, before his weight could be read, he was away down at the other end of the laboratory!

Of course, there are tricks in every trade. There are certainly many which can be employed when taking the weights of reptiles. In the case of the medium-sized crocodiles or alligators, for example, all that is needed is to envelop the creature in a sack. When unable to see, most crocodiles will remain quite still.

Where big snakes are concerned, the weight can be quickly ascertained by first weighing the reptile in its crate, then weighing the crate alone, and computing the difference. It is, however, seldom necessary for such reptiles to be weighed, as the weights of the various species are known, and variations from the normal are slight.

The heaviest inmate of the house today is old George, the centenarian Mississippi alligator. When last weighed, a few years ago, George registered nearly three-quarters of a ton. This 12-foot-long alligator has grown little since then. The lightest inmates, by contrast, are some baby dwarf chameleons. It takes exactly half-a-dozen of these minute creatures to balance one ounce!

C. H.

A Hen Escapes Two Dinner Parties

FROM Ogmore Vale, in Wales, comes the story of a hen's remarkable good fortune.

This hen was being carried across the road, early one morning recently, in the mouth of a fox who, like the one in Beatrix Potter's famous story of Jemima Puddleduck, had "invited her home to dinner." But Master Reynard was a bit too eager for the dinner party to begin and he dashed across the road without stopping to look both ways. As a result he was run over.

A man who happened to be

passing had seen the hen dangling, apparently lifeless, from the fox's jaws, and he went to appropriate the dinner which poor Reynard no longer needed. But Mrs Hen had only been limp with fright, and, finding herself free, she rushed off towards some sheds, clucking at the very top of her voice, and so escaped.

She must have still been clucking enough for two dozen hens when she reached home, but it is doubtful whether her farmyard companions believed her story.

WHEN WE WERE VERY WRONG

THE Historical Association has just published another of its useful booklets on Common Errors in History, a series which corrects much old-fashioned teaching. For instance, we learn that Columbus did not have to convince his friends that the earth was round, a fact which had been known for 1000 years. This story was the invention of the American writer Washington Irving.

The first ruler to use the title of Prince of Wales was Llewelyn ap Griffith about 1258, and Edward I did not present his infant son to Welsh chieftains as their Prince at Carnarvon Castle in 1284. When that baby was born he was not heir to the throne, because his brother was still alive, and when in 1301 the young Edward was truly created Prince of Wales it was at Lincoln, the Welsh chieftains coming to pay homage at Chester.

The French Revolution, we learn, was started by the aristocrats, and not by the peasants who finally destroyed them. (Incidentally, Marie Antoinette did not tell the people to eat cake if they could not get bread.)

Captain Cook was not the discoverer of Australia, which had been known by the Dutch for 150 years. But he certainly discovered New South Wales, found that New Zealand was not part of Antarctica, and was the first to search for the North-West Passage on the far side of America as high up as Bering Strait. He intended to carry this search to a conclusion but was killed while refitting at Hawaii in 1779.

Finally, we must not identify Robinson Crusoe's island as Juan Fernandez where Alexander Selkirk lived in the South Pacific. Though the Island of Despair is not a real island the description is closer to Tobago in the West Indies than to any other spot.

The First Noel

THE picture shows a scene from The Joyous Pageant of the Nativity, performances of which at Chelsea Palace Theatre have been benefiting the Bishop of London's £750,000 Reconstruction Fund.

The Pageant, written by Charles A. Claye, a Derbyshire man, was first produced in 1922 and has been performed regularly



since then. Some of those taking part joined the Company—the Graham Street Players—when they were children, and in the performances this year two of the cherubs are the children of an original child player.

The Editor's Table

1500

THIS is the 1500th number of the Children's Newspaper and with its publication we salute the memory of its founder, Arthur Mee, and the vision which gave him the inspiration to record "the things of good report" for the youth of the world to read.

That vision still guides those who direct the C N today. We believe still that "grim and gloomy" news does not fairly represent the affairs of mankind. There is much to report that is noble, true, and beautiful in the contemporary human scene.

WE are not, however, looking backwards at this time of salutation. Our aim is to march forward with the children of today who are the parents of tomorrow. The human family does not mark time—it is ever on the march to fresh experiences, and experiments, and achievements in the great adventure of living, and it will be the business of the C N always to watch and to report on the progress of the human family.

MANKIND is born to hope that the best is yet to be, and in spite of passing calamities our belief in that hope is unalterably steadfast. It is the on-coming generation of our readers who will carry this torch of hope. The broad fields of adventurous living were never more dangerous nor so well stocked with obstacles. But never were they more challenging to stout hearts and undaunted spirits. We go on with all men of good will to fight and conquer for the "things of good report."

MARCHING ON

FROM age to age they gather, all the brave of heart and strong;
In the strife of truth with error, of the right against the wrong;
I can see their gleaming banner, I can hear their triumph song;
The truth is marching on!

The earth is circling onward out of shadow into light;
The stars keep watch above our way, however dark the night;
For every martyr's stripe there glows a bar of morning bright,
And love is marching on!

Lead on, O cross of martyr faith, with thee is victory;
Shine forth, O stars and reddening dawn, the full day yet shall be;
On earth His kingdom cometh, and with joy our eyes shall see;
Our God is marching on.

Fred L. Hosmer

End of a Chapter

NOT long ago senior British and Italian military officers met cordially at a ceremony in the famous Danieli Hotel, Venice, held on the occasion of the final withdrawal of British Forces from Italy. The Italian General Cappa offered the gratitude of the Italian Army to the British authorities for all their help.

Thus happily ended a chapter which began so tragically nearly seven and a half years ago when Mussolini, the tyrant, confident in the imminent defeat of Britain by Hitler, declared war on her against the wishes of most of his own people. Three years later he was arrested by Italian leaders who made an armistice with the Allies. Thereafter many Italians fought on the Allied side. But nearly two years more of martyrdom for Italy had to pass before the last Germans were driven from her historic soil.

Now British and Italian soldiers salute each other in comradesly farewell, and the British people, as their sons leave the Italian people's ancient land, say: "God bless you and keep you."

BRIDGES OF FRIENDSHIP

NO more fruitful work for peace and good will can be done than in going to see another country and in making friend with its citizens. That is the object of the Educational Interchange Council which is branching out on some bold schemes. So far it has brought 400 Austrians to Britain, and arranged for 250 people to go to Austria. Now Germany and Czechoslovakia are to come into its friendly ministrations.

The Council hopes to exchange not only students, but young people in industry and commerce and the professions. Its ideal is to build bridges of friendship to span the gulfs of misunderstanding between the peoples, and the C N heartily wishes it well in its campaign.

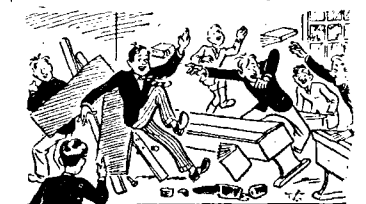
Under the

A MAN said that his portrait was beyond words. Not a speaking likeness.

BRITISH rationing will last for at least three years. Provided the food lasts.

A FATHER says his son always beats him at chess. Perhaps he beats his son afterwards.

LONDON's Underground is one of the best in the world. Can it be above the average?



SOME children have a smashing time. Especially on breaking-i day.

THINGS SAID

ITALY and Yugoslavia must reach an early understanding which will enable both sides to consider the Adriatic as a lake which unites us and not as a sea which divides us.

Count Sforza, Italian Foreign Minister

IF there is a chance of extending the olive branch to the German nation, it should be decorated with the Unesco emblem.

Mr F. R. Coe, British Unesco delegate

OWING to the number of hours now spent in queues, large feet are now widespread.

Sir Thomas Moore, M.P.

WE can be thankful that there is this unity of devotion to spiritual and moral values in this world of free men and women.

Mr Douglas, U.S. Ambassador

IDEAS are only killed by better ideas. *The Home Secretary*

Dignity of Speech

IN Parliament recently, a Member who was speaking against the Government's Registration for Employment Order said that its object was "to compile a list of spivs, drones, cels, and butterflies, in order to compel them to take up essential work."

Whatever may be said of the wisdom or unwisdom of the Order, we may all hope that such a silly slang term as spiv is not to be incorporated in the English language. Some expressive words have started as slang and found a place in the language, but this can surely have no future. The word "spiv" comes from the jargon of thieves and other undesirable persons.

The use of such a word in Parliament as though it were a recognised term is out of keeping with the traditional dignity of speech, just as the persons referred to are out of keeping with our national dignity in these difficult times.

The Beauty of Veg

MR H. BERRY, M.P., Treasurer of the National Allotments and Gardens Association, said the other day: "There is a beauty about the foliage of vegetables that is equal to the foliage of many flowers."

Many artists will agree with him. Is not a cabbage the same shape as a rose? Why should we add insult to injury by laughing at its claims to beauty as well as eating it?

Yet there is much prejudice to be overcome before the beauty of vegetables is universally acknowledged. When that happens we shall read such items in the newspaper as: "The Town Hall was tastefully decorated with carrots and onions, and a little girl presented to the Mayoress a beautiful bouquet of turnip tops."

Some poet will write: "My love's like a red, red beetroot that's newly pulled in June." The nursery rhyme will be changed into: "Ring a ring of runner beans, a pocket full of fresh spring greens."

There is one prejudice, however, most of us have overcome already—we should like to see more of the shapely form of a potato!

THE SILENCER

WITHIN a few weeks of the jubilee of the BBC comes news from America of an invention which is being acclaimed by the long-suffering radio public of that country.

The invention is a device for switching off the radio for ten or twenty-second periods which can be timed to coincide with the interruption of the announcer praising the commodity that the programme is advertising. We can imagine the battle of wits that will ensue between announcer and listener.

Such an invention is happily not needed in our own country, where broadcasting still remains an "ally of immense potency in the campaign for a higher culture," as Lord Reith once called it.

When Christ Was Born

SOME say that ever 'gainst that season comes
Wherein our Saviour's birth is celebrated,
The bird of dawning singeth all night long;
And then, they say, no spirit can walk abroad;
The nights are wholesome; then no planets strike,
No fairy takes, nor witch hath power to charm,
So hallowed and so gracious is the time. *Shakespeare*

THROUGH DILIGENCE

THERE is no study that is not capable of delighting us after a little application to it.

Pope

JUST AN IDEA

True gratitude is the heart's remembrance.

MASS PRODUCTION IN 1806

ONE of the earliest types of machinery for mass production has been offered to the Science Museum, South Kensington, by the Admiralty. It is the plant for making naval pulley-blocks, designed by the great engineer Brunel and by him installed in Portsmouth Dockyard in 1806, where it continued in use until 1936.

Pulley-blocks were extensively used for the ropes in the old sailing ships, and until 1806 the blocks had to be laboriously made by hand. In 1801 Brunel invented machinery for making them. In 1803 the Government adopted his plans and he began to erect his plant in the dockyard. This plant consisted of 43 machines which carried out



all the processes of ships' block-making. With this plant ten men could accomplish work that had previously needed 100 men, and it was estimated that in the first year of the machinery's production the country was saved £24,000. Brunel, who had incurred great expense in building and installing the machinery, was awarded £17,000.

Brunel's invention would be a worthy companion for the other historic machines at South Kensington.

Six Months at Sea

WE are apt to suppose that the intense cold of Far-Northern regions must imprison all animal life in the bonds of the long annual sleep known as hibernation. But there is one group of animal life in the frigid Bering Sea—the seals of the Pribilof Islands—which the descent of cold stirs to almost unparalleled activity, and to movement that has no equal among warm-blooded wingless creatures.

As soon as the nip of winter comes, but not till then, the seals take to the sea and begin a vast two-way migration, out and home again. They swim away on an ocean voyage exceeding 3000 miles, as far south as the sunny waters round the Santa Barbara Islands, California. During that three months' voyage they never once quit the water.

At the end of one quarter of the year of steady going, they make a right-about-turn, and swim back over the 3000 miles by which they came. At the end of the six months that have elapsed since their leaving, they take possession of the Pribilof Islands again, and there their young are born, just as our swallows and nightingales are born here, and not in sunny Africa where they spend their winter. It is a long swim that the seals make, but they thrive on it, for, once back at their islands they rarely enter the sea until their nursery season is ended.

The CN and Its 1500 Weeks

FIFTEEN hundred weeks have passed since that spring day in 1919 when the CN made its first bow. The parents of many of our present readers were among the readers of that first CN, and, as they well know, many terrible things have since happened. The CN's purpose, however, has always been, in the words of its founder, Arthur Mee, "looking about the world for the good things and putting them down." And when we come to look back over those 1500 weeks it is surprising what a lot of good things we have been able to record.

Let us glance back over those hundreds of weeks that have passed since the CN was very young and note just a few of the good things that have happened in our own land.

In years gone by the children of poor parents sometimes came to school so hungry that they could not attend to their lessons. The system of giving free meals and milk is now so widespread that this blot on British schools has practically been wiped away. Another great step forward, helping greatly to tear down the barriers of inequality in our schools, was the Education Act of 1944—the Children's Charter.

Many reforms have also been made in the conditions of the employment of children and in the guidance of wayward and backward children.

Much has been done, too, in the CN's 1500 weeks to improve the nation's health. How the care of infant life has improved since 1919 is seen in the fact that in that year 89 babies died out of every 1000 born and now the rate is under 50.

Many Lives Saved

Many lives have been saved—in peace as well as in war—by blood transfusion, a medical service that was in its infancy in 1919. Many thousands more have been saved by diphtheria immunisation, and by the discovery of the wonderful sulphonamide drugs, and penicillin.

Closely allied to health are National Insurance and Pensions schemes. From 1925 onwards their scope has been progressively widened.

The greatest wonders of these 1500 weeks have been man's scientific achievements, transcending those of any similar period in the past. Some, alas, have been misused and have caused widespread destruction and misery; but others have eased and brightened the lives of countless millions.

When CN Number One came out there was no BBC. In

1920 the first public broadcasting of entertainments by wireless began in Canada and two years later regular broadcasting began in Britain. It is impossible to assess the benefits—the joy and entertainment and instruction—that wireless has brought to us all.

Then there is the cinema. The CN was born in the days of silent films, but a few years later came the marvel of talking films. Today it is a marvel we take for granted, but one, nevertheless, for which most people are more than grateful.

Accent on Youth

There have been many other beneficial developments going on quietly. The Savings Movement has gone ahead—people have grown more thrifty. The National Trust has been building up a heritage of beauty and historic interest.

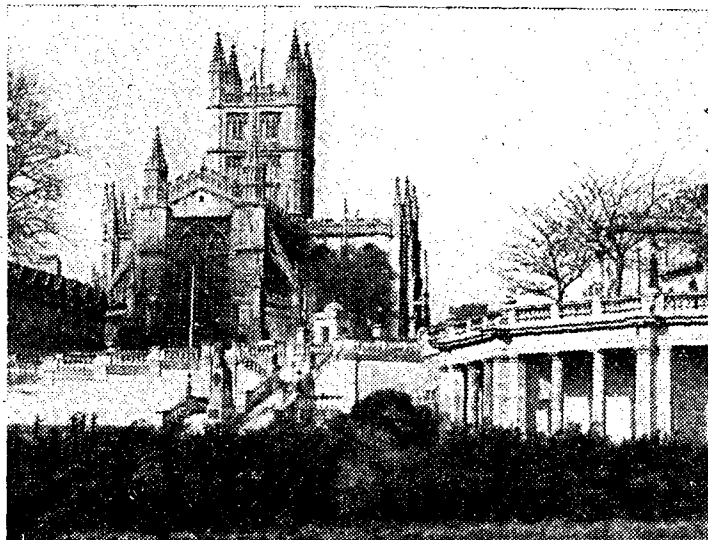
The Boy Scouts and Girl Guide movements have been joined in their invaluable work for young people by thousands of other Youth Clubs and Youth Organisations. Children's theatres, cinema clubs, children's concerts have all played an increasing part in bringing all that is best in entertainment to young eyes and ears. Never before has there been so much concern for young people—for their spiritual, educational, physical, and cultural development. Truly, in the CN's as yet brief lifetime there has been an Accent on Youth. May it long continue.

BOTTLE MAIL

THROWN into the sea off the Norfolk coast, a bottle reached the Dutch shore two months later to the day.

It was on September 7 that Mr A. R. Taylor and Miss V. Holsey, of Beccles, in Suffolk, and Mr and Mrs J. Codling, of Norwich, cast away the bottle with a signed letter inside.

They received a reply, stating that it was picked up on the island of Terschelling on November 7.



THIS ENGLAND

Bath Abbey, Somerset, seen from the east

Editor's Table

PETER PUCK
WANTS TO
KNOW

If fishermen
invent catch
phrases



Toy horses that trot are being exported by British manufacturers. They will reach the home market in the long run.

THE old drawing-room song had something to say for itself, declares a critic. But people usually sang it.

JUDGES at a handicraft show awarded the prize for a tray made of spent matches. They were struck with admiration.

A MAN says that if anyone claims to have found a substitute for wool do not believe him. It is only a yarn.

A Generous Patron of the Arts

MR SAMUEL COURTAULD, for 25 years head of the world-famous artificial silk firm of that name, and a generous benefactor of art in Britain, has passed on at the age of 71.

His firm has had a romantic history which began in 1816. His ancestors were Huguenot refugees who came to England in the seventeenth century. A hundred years later one of them, an industrious idealist who was a silk-weaver, went to America to die in the attempt to found a perfect community there.

His son, Samuel Courtauld, the great-uncle of our Samuel Courtauld, started a small silk-weaving factory at Bocking in Essex, working, of course, with natural silk produced by silk worms. Little did he dream that the end of it would be, a hundred years later, the "wizardry of transmuting trees into trousseaus."

The little business flourished. The Samuel Courtauld of our day joined it when he was 20. In 1904 came a great turning point in the history of this old firm. They bought from two English chemists, who had invented it, the viscose process of manufacturing rayon yarn. By 1921 the small family business of 1816 had become one of the largest textile firms in Britain.

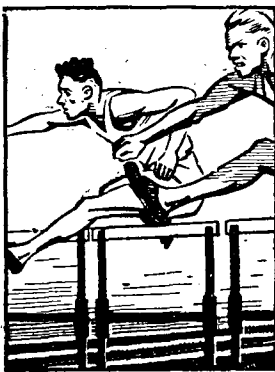
But Samuel Courtauld was far more than a successful business man. His main sparetime interest was the fostering of art and culture in our land. By a gift of £50,000 he enriched the Tate Gallery with pictures by Renoir, Manet, Degas, Van Gogh, Cézanne, and others. With his wife's help he founded the Courtauld-Sargent concerts and when she died in 1931 he transferred his beautiful home in Portman Square to the University of London as the Courtauld Institute of Art.

We have lost a friend who enriched us both materially and culturally.

Steps to Sporting Fame



D. O. Finlay is named as a "possible" to represent Britain in the 1948 Olympiad. One of the veterans of sport, he is still a brilliant hurdler.



In the 1932 Olympiad at Los Angeles, he finished third in the 110 metres. In 1936, at Berlin, he was second. He aimed to improve on this at Helsinki in 1940, but war intervened.



In war, Don Finlay was one of the immortal "Few." In the Battle of Britain he led a Spitfire squadron in a machine bought by the Observer Corps. He was awarded the D.F.C.



Now he has picked up the threads of his sporting career again. In preparation for the Olympiad he plays football on the wing for the Corinthians. All will wish him well at Wembley in 1948.

Christmas is Always on the Map

CHRISTMAS has given its name to a number of places on the map, and there are three separate Christmas Islands. One is noted only for being the largest atoll in the Indian Ocean and lies, sun-baked, about 200 miles off Java; another, discovered by Captain Cook on Christmas Day 1777, is a tiny speck in the Pacific; and the third lies off the cheerless coast of Cape Breton, Nova Scotia.

There is a Christmas Sound near Cape Horn and a Christmas Harbour in Kerguelen Land, in the Antarctic. Queensland, Australia, strangely enough, has two places called Christmas, and to avoid confusion one is always spelled Xmas. Australia also has a number of Christmas Creeks, and so has Canada. In the U.S.A. Christmas is the name given to a lake in Oregon and a cove in Maine which is very popular with wealthy holidaymakers.

Natal, the South African province, is also a Yuletide name, for its discoverer, the famous Portuguese explorer Vasco da Gama, landing there on Christmas Day, 1497, named it Terra Natalis, meaning Land of the Nativity, from which the modern name was derived. Its name is particularly apt as Da Gama was one of the few people whose birth and death both occurred on December 25. There is also a Port Natal in Brazil.

England has a Christmas Pie ("pie" in this case meaning copse), a tiny hamlet on the road leading to the Hog's Back, near Guildford; but the seasonable name only exists because a Mr Christmas once lived there.

The most famous place in the world with a Christmas name, however, is a little village in Indiana, U.S.A., which comes into the news every November, when letters and parcels pour in from all over the globe so that they can be re-addressed and plainly postmarked with the magic words Santa Claus.

A COMIC OPERA OFF-STAGE

THE D'Oyly Carte Opera Company is due to sail in the Queen Mary on December 19 to make a 21-week tour of the United States, playing, of course, the immortal Gilbert and Sullivan comic operas. Their tour will recall an earlier one which in strangeness and audacity rivalled anything in the operas themselves.

From the outset the operas were intensely popular in the United States, but there being then no international copyright there, the works were performed without fee. At one time there were over forty American companies playing the operas in America and not one farthing came to the author and composer.

Determined not to be utterly defeated, Gilbert and Sullivan once took their own company to America to show how the much-pirated Pinafore should be played; and they actually produced the opera Pirates of Penzance there four months before its London appearance in order to foil other "pirates."

Things are different now, of course, but we must remember

what they were like so as to appreciate the magnificent strategy with which Gilbert and Sullivan countered a plot by a New York theatre owner named Duff to rob them of their dues in The Mikado.

Learning that they had decided to stage the opera not at his theatre but at the Fifth

Flying the Forth

MAJOR WILLIAM HUGH EWEN, the first man to make an aeroplane flight across the Firth of Forth, has just died in Edinburgh.

It was in August 1911, when he was the only Scotsman to hold an aviator's certificate, that Major Ewen accomplished what was then held to be a prodigious feat. After waiting a month for favourable weather conditions he made an uneventful if rather unsteady flight across the Forth in a monoplane.

An enthusiastic aviator, Major Ewen later founded flying schools in Lanarkshire and at Hendon. He also trained 350 air pilots before the outbreak of the First World War.

Avenue, Duff resolved to put on the play with a company of his own two months before the English artistes were due to arrive. Duff's secret was betrayed, however, and swift action was taken.

D'Oyly Carte secretly rehearsed the company in London, then carried them by a midnight train to Liverpool. There, unrecognised, they put up at a quiet little out-of-the-way hotel until late the following afternoon. Then, making their way by launch they went on board the liner Aurania, all giving assumed names and remaining in strict seclusion until New York was reached.

There they were, two months before the enemy expected them, all ready to begin their performances on August 12, 1885; and begin them they did, to the disgust of the rascally Duff, who had been proceeding quietly with his pirate plans in the belief that the English company was on the other side of the Atlantic, 3000 miles away. It was a masterly counter-plot, as merry and bright as ever was staged by the brilliant partnership.

CHRISTMAS AT DINGLEY DELL—Jolly Scenes from Dickens's Pickwick Papers

The description of the Christmas festivities at Manor Farm, Dingley Dell, where the immortal Mr Pickwick stayed with Mr Wardle and his family, is one of the

jolliest Christmas scenes in all Dickens's works. Accompanying Mr Pickwick on this famous visit were his friends Snodgrass, Tupman, Winkle—who boasted of being an

expert in all forms of sport—and Pickwick's droll servant, Sam Weller. These pictures, with extracts from Pickwick Papers beneath, begin in the kitchen at Dingley Dell.



Mr Pickwick was standing under the mistletoe, and before he distinctly knew what was the matter he was surrounded by the young ladies. It was a pleasant thing to see Mr Pickwick in the centre of the group, now pulled this way and then that, and first kissed on the chin and then on the nose, and then on the spectacles and on his bald head.



After dinner on Christmas Day Mr Wardle proposed an hour on the ice. "You skate, of course, Winkle?" said Wardle. "I—I am rather out of practice," replied Winkle. "Oh, do skate, Mr Winkle," said Arabella. "Oh, it is so graceful," said another young lady. A third young lady said it was elegant and a fourth that it was "swan-like."



Old Wardle led the way to a large sheet of ice. Mr Winkle, his skates fixed on by Sam Weller, was raised to his feet. "Now then, sir," said Sam, "off with you and show 'em how to do it." "Stop, Sam, stop!" said Mr Winkle, trembling. "How slippery it is, Sam!" "Not an uncommon thing upon ice, sir," replied Mr Weller. "Hold up, sir." The ladies awaited the "display."



"Now, Winkle," cried Mr Pickwick, quite unconscious that there was anything the matter, "come, the ladies are all anxiety." "Yes, yes," replied Mr Winkle, with a ghastly smile, "I'm coming." Mr Weller disengaged himself; and in so doing administered a considerable impetus to Mr Winkle, who bore down swiftly on the other skaters.

What will happen to the "swan-like" skater? See next week's instalment

The Children's Newspaper, December 20, 1947

CN BOOKSHELF



The Gateway, compiled by M. I. Fogarty (Blandford Press, 8s 6d).

A fascinating anthology of stories by acknowledged masters of their art, designed not only to entertain but to lead the reader through the gateway to wider realms of gold.

The Thorndike Junior Dictionary, revised and edited by P. B. Ballard, and H. E. Palmer (University of London Press, 15s).

This is the book we have been long waiting for. All the explanations of the meaning of words are in easy-to-understand language and there are many admirable illustrations.

Adventure Stories

The Voyage of the Landship, by Dale Collins (Pilot Press, 7s 6d).

The Landship is a real ship which, drawn by two great horses, goes adventuring along the lanes and roads of England. Dale Collins is well-known as a writer of adventure books for grown-ups, and this is his first for boys and girls.

Royal Chase, by Joan Selby-Lowndes (Collins, 8s 6d).

An exciting tale of life in the English countryside in the time of Henry the Eighth, seen through the eyes of a boy of 12.

Comrades in Arms, by Captain W. E. Johns (Hodder and Stoughton, 6s).

Biggles of the R.A.F., Worrals of the W.A.A.F., and King of the Commandos, all appear in this book of short stories by a popular writer of adventure fiction.

The Young Clavengers, by Dorothy Margaret Stuart (University of London Press, 8s 6d).

The author gives a fascinating account of the adventures of children during many reigns.

Animal Tales

Scampy, by Dorothy L'Homm-medieu, illustrated by M. Kirmse (Robert Hale, 7s 6d).

All about a black cocker spaniel puppy as full of mischief and the joy of living as any self-respecting young spaniel should be.

Rabbit Hill, by Robert Lawson (Harrap, 10s 6d).

This is an exciting story of a rabbit family and their friends. There are many charming illustrations by the author.

My Friend Wilberforce, and *Barnaby Camps Out*, by Racey Helps (Collins, 3s 6d each).

Two more books with the adventures, delightfully recounted and illustrated, of that most popular of rodents, Barnaby Littlemouse.

Other Books Received

ERIC GILLET'S Film Book (Sampson Low, 7s 6d).

Ponies And Poachers, by David Severn (The Bodley Head, 7s 6d).

The Children's Golden Treasure Book (Odhams Press, 8s 6d).

Some Queer Animals And Why, by Charles Mortimer (Guilford Press, 7s 6d).

Uncle Mac's Fairy Tale Book, and *Uncle Mac's Children's Hour Story Book* (Sampson Low, 7s 6d each).

Bird Sanctuary, by Reginald Gaze (Faber, 7s 6d).

Inca City, by Michael Trevor (C. & J. Temple, 6s).

Out Of Doors With Nomad, by Norman Ellison (University of London Press, 7s 6d).

A Bigger Sack For Santa

SUPPLIES for Santa Claus are this year more abundant, though very expensive, but there is still an acute shortage of many favourite types of playthings, especially mechanical toys and gifts for older children.

Although there is this improvement the boys and girls of today are still at a disadvantage compared with those who were young before 1939 when playthings of all descriptions were in abundance.

Between the two wars British toymakers had not only captured most of the home market but had also made deep inroads on the German overseas trade in toys. In 1914 only 10 per cent of the toys sold in Britain were of British manufacture, whereas in 1939 the proportion was 90 per cent.

In 1914 there were 200 big toy factories in Nuremberg and the neighbouring town of Fürth. Toy soldiers, for example, were sold by the ton! A box containing 150 pieces, with soldiers, trees, bastions, camp, and cannon, was sold wholesale at half-a-crown. Our factories could not compete with that. The output of cheap dolls made in the villages of the Black Forest was 8000 a day. One large factory was devoted solely to turning out dolls' eyes.

Only with the more expensive mechanical toys, in which British craftsmanship has never been excelled, could our makers then hold their own.

The 1914-18 war, cutting off supplies of cheap foreign toys, enabled British makers to get a better foothold, and after the war the industry made more rapid headway until by 1928 it had definitely won the mastery. In that year 86 per cent of the toys at the British Industries Fair were British. In the well-stocked shops at Christmas 1939 British toys in great variety predominated.

Tutankhamen's Tops

Many of the simpler kinds of toys have been the playthings of children down the ages. Three wooden peg-tops were found in the tomb of Tutankhamen, in the Valley of the Kings, and also a tiny monkey carved in wood, the forerunner of the monkey-on-a-stick of later times. There is a toy climbing monkey of 4000 years ago to be seen at the Exhibition of the Art of India at Burlington House in London.

As ancient and as universal are the rattles of babyhood. They have been found, fashioned of

clay, in neolithic lake-dwellings. In Siberia they are made of skin with reindeer teeth inside, and in Africa Negroes use gourds containing nuts.

Egyptian tombs have yielded tiny monkeys and crocodiles with lower jaws moved by a string. From Persia came a toy lion and a porcupine now in the Paris Louvre. These had been placed in the foundations of a temple built at Susa in 1100 B.C. and were the sacrifices of some conscientious youngster giving his two most prized possessions.

From the contents of children's graves, vase paintings, and allusions in classical literature we learn of the playthings of the Greek and Roman world—balls and tops, hoops and hobby-horses, animals with movable parts, dolls of rag, wood, and wax, wooden wagons, and little clay soldiers and horsemen.

Solitary Soldier

Very few of the toys of the Middle Ages have survived. For one thing, homes were so often besieged and burned in those troubled times. In the Cluny Museum at Paris is a solitary toy soldier of the 13th century, fished up from the bottom of the Seine. An illuminated manuscript depicts two 16th-century children making toy cavaliers fight by pulling strings, and from the same period have come splendid examples, with the miniature armour perfect in every detail. After the glorification of war by Frederick the Great tin soldiers became the rage.

Dolls are of great antiquity, and not only as toys—they were fetishes in primitive magic and played a part in medieval sorcery. The very name, connected with "idol," reminds us of this. They belong to every land and every age!

Although supplies are still far short of 1939 it is good to know that in 1947 Santa Claus will require a sack bigger than in the years between.

ANIMALS WITH GOLDEN PAWS

Nor long ago two young brothers, Patrick and James Murphy, of Portarlington, County Leix, Eire, found in a rabbit burrow 28 dirty coins.

They have since been recognised as pistoles—17th century gold coins. Only a very few exist in the largest collections today, yet the boys had played with the coins without realising their rarity and value. Those which they did not lose will probably be exhibited in the Eire National Museum.

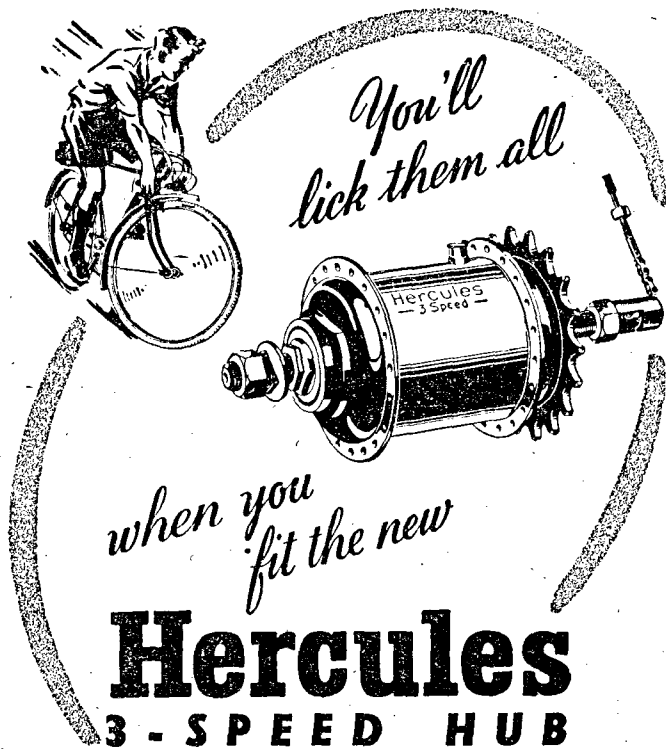
It is a fascinating thought that rabbits, by their burrowings, originally unearthed these coins. But rabbits, and dogs, too, have been responsible for some surprising similar discoveries.

A rabbit scratching for food in Australia's desert country was disturbed by an aborigine, and scurried off. The man noticed something glistening in the sun-

light and picked up an opal! Later investigation showed that the rabbit had accidentally unearthed a rich field near Coober Pedy, the famous opal area.

But for a dog, one of the world's richest sapphire ledges might still be undiscovered today. The dog's master, a badger trapper in Montana, saw the animal scraping up glittering pieces of stone. Staking his claim, he sold the dog's find to a jeweller in New York for £740. Further finds made the trapper a rich man within a few months.

Some years ago an Alaskan gold rush was started by the discovery of a tiny piece of gold in a stray dog's paw. In Australia, too, a dog was once seen scratching at a hole. This led to the dog's owner finding some yellowish rock—and starting a small mine in which gold to the value of £10,000 was found.



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THE BRAN TUB

SMALLER EDITION

THE family were discussing a forthcoming children's fancy-dress ball.

"May I go as a milkmaid?" asked Peggy.

"No, dear," said Mummy. "You are too small."

"But couldn't she go as a condensed milk maid?" suggested her brother.

Great Stuff

EMMIE wants to go afar, Sail the oceans, cross the bar, Settle in some State. Emmie wants the open spaces, Colour, warmth, and other races. Isn't Emigrate?

Wisdom of Shakespeare

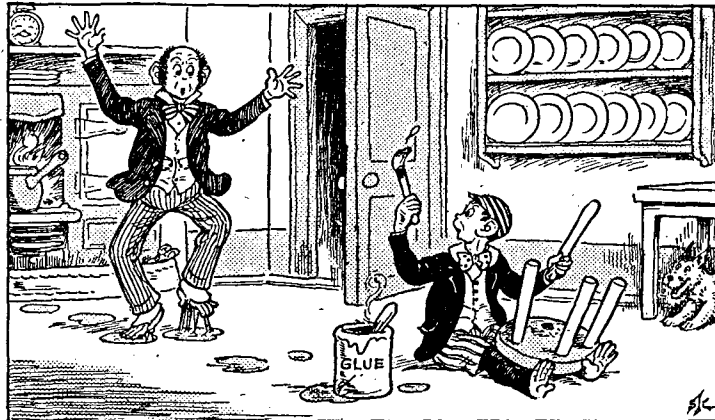
THERE is no darkness but ignorance.

RODDY



"Crumbs, Daddy! Is that you when you were a little boy—haven't you grown?"

Jacko Did Not Stick to His Job!



FINDING that the kitchen stool needed repairing, Jacko offered to do it. He placed the glue-pot on the fire, then, when it was hot, set to work. But he had not noticed that the pot was leaking and that he had left a trail of glue across the room. Father Jacko did, however. He walked into the room and was "rooted to the spot," which was lucky for Jacko, for it gave him time to scurry away and hide until Father Jacko had had time to "unstick" himself.

FARMER GRAY EXPLAINS

The Sleeping Beauty. Thin shafts of December sunlight filtered through the variegated chinks in the woodshed, piercing the gloom with long quivering fingers of light.

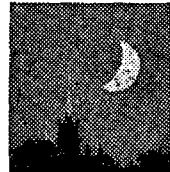
A faint movement drew Don's attention. What he had taken for a crumpled leaf suddenly transformed itself into a gorgeous butterfly. By the large eyelike circles on the corner of each wing, Don knew it to be a Peacock Butterfly.

"Some butterflies spend the winter in chrysalis form, but Peacocks, like the Tortoiseshells, hibernate," explained Farmer Gray, when he heard of the winged beauty. "If disturbed they may awaken, but after a few feeble flutterings they resume their slumbers."

Other Worlds

IN the evening Saturn and Mars are in the east, and Venus is low in the south-west. In the morning Saturn and Mars are in the south-west.

The picture shows the Moon at 6 pm on Thursday, December 18.



HE KNEW

HE was a very learned professor, but his lectures were rather dull, and one student often fell asleep during the afternoon. One day the professor began to reprimand the offender.

"I'll teach you to fall asleep during my lectures," he said.

"Too late, sir," replied the student. "I've learned already."

Children's Hour

BBC Programmes from Wednesday, December 17, to Tuesday, December 23

WEDNESDAY, 5.0 Pythagoras and the Christmas Tree. 5.15 Regional Round. N. Ireland, 5.0 Important to Us—a talk. 5.15 Regional Round

THURSDAY, 5.0 Lottie Lea—a story; Loughton Girls' High School and Bancrofts School Choirs. 5.40 Swallows and Amazons (11). N. Ireland, 5.0 Salavar the Seagull; Peter Comes in from the Farm; A Competition; Ulstermen Everywhere—a talk. 5.30 Nature Diary. Scottish, 5.0 Lucky Dip. 5.25 News Talk. Welsh, 5.30 Sian and the Reindeer; The Return of Twinkletoes.

FRIDAY, 5.0 Drowsy Dormouse Again (3); The Magic Bedknob (3). Welsh, 5.0 Rigmarole (5) Ghosties and Ghoules—Music; The Christmas House—a story. Scottish, 5.0 Story and Rhymes. 5.15 The Black Wherry (5).

SATURDAY, 5.0 Christmas Serenade. 5.40 Scottish Birdman. West, 5.0 The Oak Tree Folk (3). 5.15 Monthly Magazine. 5.45 Westward Ho with the Mails.

SUNDAY, 5.0 Greekie's First Christmas—a story; Carols. Midland, 5.0 A Play; Jan Berenska and his Orchestra.

MONDAY, 5.0 A Present for Father Christmas; Said the Cat to the Dog. 5.40 Music at Random. Scottish, 5.0 A Christmas Story; Dance Music Christmas Decorating—a Talk.

TUESDAY, 5.0 A Christmas Fantasy. 5.0 World Affairs, by Stephen King-Hall. N. Ireland, 5.0 Salavar the Seagull; Look at the Stars (5); The Honourable the Irish Society School Choir.

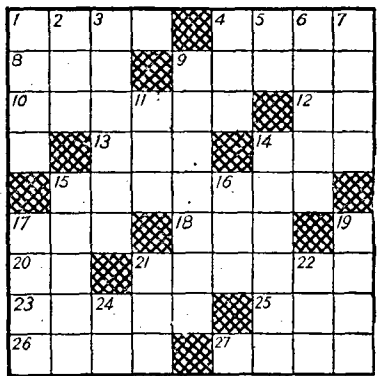
Cross Word Puzzle

Reading Across. 1 A place of sale. 4 Competent. 8 Wrath. 9 An official examination of accounts. 10 To go on board a ship. 12 Not from. 13 A girl in khaki. 14 Vessel which contains tea. 15 Tall part of a church. 17 Open to the poet. 18 A meshed fabric. 20 Royal Engineers. 21 Pertaining to dogs. 23 Commonplace. 25 To cut down grass. 28 A hide. 29 The cow does this.

Reading Down. 1 A person's bearing. 2 A discount. 4 A British swimming bird. 5 Bachelor of Divinity. 6 French standard measure of capacity. 7 Famous public school. 9 Place where weapons are made and stored. 11 Devoured. 14 This means in the month before the current one. 15 To converse. 16 Small enclosure for animals. 17 Spheres. 19 Fresh events reported. 21 Metal container. 22 This moment. 24 Northern Ireland.

Asterisks indicate abbreviations. Answer next week

The Children's Newspaper, December 20, 1947



BEHEADING

I AM a mass of honey bees. If I'm beheaded, you will find I am not cold, but rather hot. Behead again, if you've a mind, And what remains will not be grim, But just an all-important limb.

Answer next week

Two Ways

MOTORIST: How far is it to Slocombe?

Hiker: About 23,999 miles the way you are going and about one mile if you turn around.

LAST WEEK'S ANSWER

Jumbled Cities

Durban, Montreal, Brisbane, Cape Town, Winnipeg, Auckland.

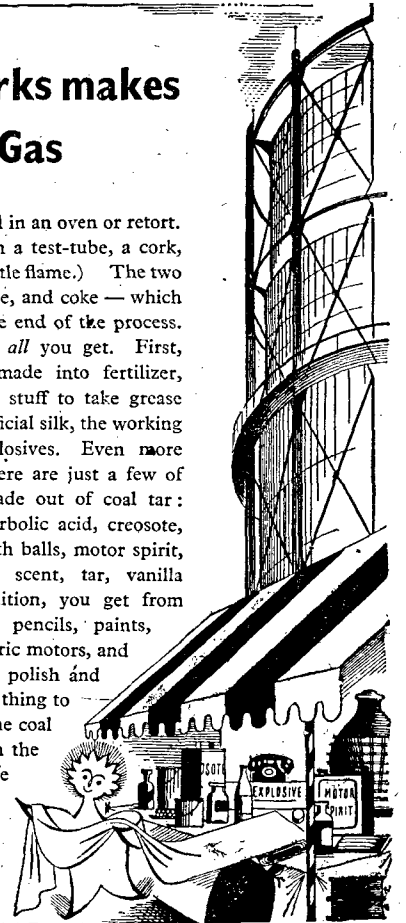
DO YOU KNOW? asks Mr. Therm

No. 2

What a Gasworks makes besides Gas

To make gas, you bake coal in an oven or retort. (You can make it yourself with a test-tube, a cork, some small bits of coal and a gentle flame.) The two main products are gas, of course, and coke—which is what is left of the coal at the end of the process.

But this is by no means all you get. First, there is ammonia. This is made into fertilizer, baking powder, smelling salts, stuff to take grease marks out of your trousers, artificial silk, the working fluid of refrigerators, or explosives. Even more valuable, there is coal tar. Here are just a few of over 2,000 things that are made out of coal tar: Almond flavouring, aspirin, carbolic acid, creosote, drugs, dyes, lacquer, lysol, moth balls, motor spirit, naphtha, plastics, saccharine, scent, tar, vanilla essence and varnish. In addition, you get from gasworks carbon for making pencils, paints, arc-lamps and brushes for electric motors, and "flue dust" that makes metal polish and anti-rust paint. The important thing to remember is that if you burn the coal in a fire, instead of baking it in the gasworks, you waste all these priceless things. So people who burn gas and coke do a good turn to their neighbours and to the nation.



Issued by

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BEDTIME CORNER

Uncle's Christmas Present

DAPHNE had been saving up to buy Uncle Richard a fountain pen for Christmas. She had chosen the pen and the shopman had promised to keep it for her.

Uncle was coming to stay with them for Christmas and Mother said a fountain pen was just what he wanted. He was an absent-minded old gentleman and could never remember to buy himself one.

Two weeks before Christmas Uncle came to see them for the day. "I must do some shopping today," he said, "for I shall not have another chance before Christmas, because I'm staying right out in the country for two weeks until I come back to you here on Christmas Eve."

Then, to Daphne's dismay, he went on: "I must remember to buy myself a fountain pen today. I'll tie this piece of string round my finger, then I'll be sure to remember!"

Poor Daphne was very distressed. She wondered how she could get that piece of string off Uncle's finger. Then she had an idea. She told him she was learning First Aid at the Brownies. "Let me show you how I can bandage a hand," she suggested. "May I try on yours?"

Uncle was most interested.

"I'll just take this piece of string off first," she said, and went on talking rapidly about something else while she bandaged his hand.



"First class!" cried Uncle, admiring the bandage on his hand. Then Daphne took it off—but of course she did not remind him to replace the string. He went down the town without it.

When he came back he began fumbling in his pocket for a pencil to write with. "There," he exclaimed, "I forgot to buy a fountain pen. Now I shall not be able to buy one until after Christmas!"

"Ah!" said Daphne, "you had better wait and see what Santa Claus will do!"